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Cooke May Face Court-Martial

RICHMOND, Aug. 3 (AP) — A recommendation that 2nd Lt. Christopher M. Cooke, accused of disclosing military secrets to the Soviet Union, be court-martialed has been sent to the Military Airlift Command, it was reported today.

Cooke faces five counts of disclosing military information to unauthorized people along with charges that he made 13 unauthorized contacts with the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Cooke was assigned as a launch officer at a Titan II missile silo in the Strategic Air Command, but his case was transferred to the Military Airlift Command at SAC's request.

The court-martial recommenda-

tion came from Cooke's base commander, Col. Charles Belt of McConnell Air Force Base near Wichita, Kan., the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported. It will be reviewed by MAC's commander at Scott Air Force Base near Belleville, Ill.

Cooke's lawyers, military counsel Capt. Francis W. Pedrotty and civilian attorney F. Lee Bailey, argue that the 26-year-old officer cannot be court-martialed because an immunity agreement was approved by SAC in exchange for Cooke's cooperation with Air Force investigators.

The Air Force contends that Cooke did not cooperate fully and the charges against him were developed independently of his testimony.